

shown a lifelong commitment to innovation, specifically by facilitating or creating inventions that make a measurable impact on quality of life, economic development, or the welfare of society.

Dr. Block is being recognized for his contributions to therapeutic drug and biomarker of disease screening and discovery. He also holds numerous patents and has been involved in more than 30 years in viral hepatitis research.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Dr. Block for the work that he has done in this field, which has undoubtedly impacted the people in my district, throughout our country, and around the world.

#### RECOGNIZING ARCHBISHOP WOOD FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the players, staff, and coaches of the Archbishop Wood football team and congratulate them on winning the PIAA Class 5A State championship. With their discipline and hard work, the young men of this football team have continued a tradition of excellence for the Vikings. The dominance they displayed in their championship win in December is an excellent example of what teamwork and tenacity can achieve. They have made our community very proud.

To the coaching staff, we say congratulations and thank you for leading and teaching these young men. It is my hope that the lessons of determination and perseverance that these student athletes have learned will help guide them off the field as well.

To the fans, friends, and family that have supported Archbishop Wood, we say congratulations. To all those who work with and support organized youth sports in our district, we say thank you.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE 2018 XXIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES BEING HOSTED IN SOUTH KOREA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 2018 XXIII Olympic Winter Games being hosted in Pyeongchang, South Korea, next month. I am proud of the many Korean Americans in the Ninth Congressional District who make the USA a better place to live.

The Olympic Games serve as a forum for the international community to come together to build a peaceful world. In order to be a competitor in the Olympic Games, nations across the globe have to embody the values and ideals of friendship, solidarity, and fair play. It is no different in the diplomatic arena.

Without these core values, the spirit of fair competition is eroded. The common bond that brings nations from all over the world to compete and build friendships serves as a forum to promote tolerance and understanding.

Promoting these ideals is critical to these increasingly troubled times, and I believe the results can make our world a more peaceful place.

The upcoming Winter Olympic Games presents a significant opportunity for the United States of America to lead the fight against international conflicts and to promote peace. This is our legacy.

Our Nation can use this opportunity to work with the international community in a way that shows that we can come together in the spirit of healthy competition, regardless of our differences.

With the long shadow being cast by the provocations of Pyongyang and rhetoric from our own administration, the Olympic Winter Games came at the right time. They are an opportunity for the United States to speak out in support of resolving the current conflicts on the Korean Peninsula.

While there are many issues facing the international community, all can agree the growing threat of nuclear conflict presents the most immediate danger. In order to deescalate the growing threat, and in the spirit of the Olympic Games themselves, I hope that our athletes' presence in South Korea will serve as a symbolic representation that our differences can be worked out on a neutral field.

Further, it is reassuring that North Korea will participate in the upcoming Winter Olympics. If the reports are true, it will be encouraging to watch the two countries' athletes march together at the opening ceremony under a unification flag. That surpasses the consequences of empty rhetorical threats. We can do better than that.

It took the Winter Olympics to thaw the ice between the two nations, who have not met in 2 years. This is a welcome sign of easing tensions after months of alarm over North Korea's nuclear program.

As a result, this year's Olympic Games are already off to a great start. The Games will continue to be a reminder that, regardless of where someone is from, we can still set our differences aside for a better world, just like the first athletes who came together to start the Olympic tradition.

It is my expectation that the Republic of Korea will host a successful 2018 XXIII Olympic Winter Games and that the hard work and dedication of the Korean people to this endeavor will be remembered by the international community.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to watching the men and women representing the United States of America bring home the gold.

#### RECOGNIZING YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the nonprofit Youth

Entrepreneurs for their commitment to preparing our students to meet the demands of today's workforce. This program provides a taste of the workforce in a variety of career paths for our emerging leaders.

Youth Entrepreneurs was started in 1991, in Wichita, Kansas, with the goal to give young adults a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values for today's workplace. High school students who participate in the Youth Entrepreneurship Program receive a preparation course that covers the ins-and-outs of a variety of career fields and business etiquette.

After students complete the class, they are sent to work at a business that matches their interest. The students are able to apply their learning from the classroom at the company they are paired with.

For 26 years, this nonprofit has been dedicated to education and the success of our youth. Today, I want to make sure they know that their hard work has not gone unnoticed. Personally, I have seen and heard the success stories from these young adults, including my own godson, Patrick, who has participated in this organization.

The program has expanded to 10 other States and graduated thousands of students. More than 80 percent of the participants say they want to attend college, and 60 percent of the students who have completed the requirements have either started their own business or desire to one day.

I am proud of programs like Youth Entrepreneurs that are working to give our young adults a pathway for success. Even with unemployment at an all-time record low in Kansas, there are still 50,000 open jobs in our State. It is important that our students have access to organizations like Youth Entrepreneurs so that we can prepare Kansans to meet these high employment demands.

#### KANSAS MEETING STEM DEMANDS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an industry that presents endless opportunities for America's workforce. As our Nation continues to advance technologically, it is imperative that our youth have the skills necessary to remain competitive in the workforce.

Kansas is experiencing record employment across the State; however, one industry faces an increasingly high demand for skilled workers. Today, Kansas has more than 2,500 open computer science jobs, which is two times higher than the average State's demand. This year alone, the United States Department of Labor predicts employers will be unable to fill nearly 2.5 million job openings in STEM-related—or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math—professions.

Last week, I met with the students from the North Central Kansas Technical College. NCKTC is ranked third in the Nation in job placement in tech-related fields. I am so proud to see colleges throughout my district working

hard to meet the challenges that our labor force is facing today by offering more STEM-based curricula.

Northwest Kansas Technical College offers programs and certification courses in computer science and coding, while Hutchinson Community College's Business and Industry Institute, also in my district, incorporates computer and science technology into their training programs.

Emporia State University recognizes our future by offering STEM-concentration classes for kindergarten through sixth-grade teachers. This program for teachers ensures that our youth will get a greater understanding of these technical skills at a younger age and ultimately be better equipped for future jobs in the STEM industry.

It is important that we recognize these colleges' efforts and their computer science initiatives that will prepare students for success in these growing career fields.

As a Member of Congress, I always strive to create opportunities for my constituents back home, but we must also take advantage of the opportunities at our doorstep. It is imperative that we continue to place a focus on STEM education. As computer science becomes a skill utilized in almost every industry, we must ensure our children are well prepared to meet these demands.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ALWYN CASHE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I am filing legislation to honor an American hero. My bill would name the U.S. Post Office at 567 East Franklin Street in Oviedo, Florida, in honor of one of its native sons, Sergeant First Class Alwyn Cashe.

Scripture teaches us that there is no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends. On October 17, 2005, in an Iraqi province north of Baghdad, Sergeant First Class Cashe made the ultimate expression of love, disregarding his personal safety and enduring unimaginable pain in order to save multiple soldiers under his command from their burning vehicle after it hit an improvised explosive device.

His actions that fateful day were so remarkable that they almost defy description. Words like "courage" and "bravery" do not seem adequate to fully capture the deeds this soldier performed.

The actions that Sergeant First Class Cashe took resulted in his death, as he must have known they would. After his passing, Sergeant First Class Cashe received the Silver Star, the third-highest combat award that the Army confers.

Over the past years, there has been a passionate, painstaking, and patient effort to have Sergeant First Class

Cashe's Silver Star upgraded to the Medal of Honor. Notably, this effort has been led by the battalion commander who nominated him for the Silver Star. This individual, now a two-star general, came to believe he deserves the award. I strongly agree with this conclusion.

But right now, I want to talk not about medals but about the man himself, because that is what matters the most.

Alwyn was born in 1970 in Sanford, Florida, and was raised in Oviedo, attending Oviedo High School. He was the youngest of nine children—five girls and four boys. The family didn't have much money, but they had plenty of pride. When Alwyn was just 6, his father passed away. Alwyn's mother, Ruby Mae, worked long hours at demanding jobs, working on an assembly line and, later, as a custodian at Florida Tech, since renamed the University of Central Florida.

One of Alwyn's sisters, Kasinal, who is now an ICU nurse, describes her brother as the baby of the family, rambunctious, a little spoiled by his siblings, and, of course, deeply loved. She remembers buying him a 10-speed bike so he wouldn't be different from the other kids in the neighborhood and how happy he was.

Alwyn enlisted in the military after high school. Kasinal told us it had a transformational effect, turning this aimless boy into a resolute man, the civilian into a soldier—and not just any soldier, but a soldier's soldier, a tough-as-nails infantryman, and an old-school leader in the best sense of the term.

As Kasinal put it, Alwyn bled Army green right from the start. The Army gave him a second family with even more brothers and sisters, bound together by the American flag on their uniform and the events they experienced and endured together, from boot camp to combat.

On October 17, 2005, Alwyn, now Sergeant First Class Cashe, was on his second deployment to Iraq. The Bradley Fighting Vehicle carrying him, six other American soldiers, and the squad's interpreter struck an IED. The blast instantly killed the interpreter and ruptured the vehicle's fuel cell.

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Flames engulfed the vehicle. Initially, only lightly injured, but covered in fuel, he descended into the hull, extracted the driver, who was on fire, and extinguished the flames. At this point, multiple soldiers remained in the vehicle, one of whom managed to open the rear hatch.

Sergeant First Class Cashe rushed to the back of the vehicle, reached into the hot flames, and started pulling out soldiers. His fuel-soaked uniform caught fire and the flames spread quickly over his body. Despite what must have been terrible pain, he returned to the vehicle twice more to extract his soldiers, all while he was still on fire and exposed to enemy gunfire.

By the time all the soldiers were saved from the vehicle, his injuries were the most severe. Second- and third-degree burns covered 72 percent of his body. Nevertheless, he refused to be evacuated until all his soldiers were medevacked out before him.

When he arrived at the U.S. military hospital at Balad Air Base in Iraq, he was still fully conscious. What remained of his uniform had melted to his skin, yet he tried to fight off the nurses, insisting that they treat everyone else first. Despite determined efforts to save his life at various hospitals abroad and in the States, he eventually succumbed to his wounds on November 8, 2005, surrounded by members of his biological family and his Army family.

Sergeant First Class Cashe's actions reflect the highest standards of servant leadership, devotion to duty, and sheer bravery.

We cannot bring Sergeant First Class Cashe back or erase the pain felt by those who loved him and those who served alongside him, but we can pay tribute to his life and his legacy. We can engrave his name on a plaque and designate a Federal building in his memory so the public never forgets this American soldier, this son of Oviedo, who laid down his life for his friends in service to our country.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TAYLOR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, January is National Mentoring Month. Never underestimate the big impact that you can make with a little contribution of your time, wisdom, and attention.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak on the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America organization. The Big Brothers Big Sisters of America movement began in 1904. Big Brothers Big Sisters of America currently operates throughout the U.S. and in 12 countries across the world.

Children joining Big Brothers Big Sisters of America are carefully placed in a one-on-one relationship with an older volunteer in a key stage in their development. These children are less likely to engage in such behaviors, such as drug use, other illegal activities, or social dysfunction.

One such big brother, Andrew Jones, signed up for the program. Years ago, he met a young 12-year-old. This boy was from a low-income, single-parent household. His mother worked a lot of overtime at a local hospital. Misguided, the boy was already on probation at 12 years old, hanging around the wrong crowd, and headed in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew would take the boy to the English Grill restaurant for a weekly \$2.22 breakfast: two eggs, two